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STATE FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/P

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: "CBI AND CODEL FASCELL"

1. EDITORIAL OF THE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1988
WEEKEND EDITION OF THE EC (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) NEWS,
(CIRC: 10,000) ENTITLED "THE HELPING HANDS FOR A
BETTER CBI". BEGIN TEXT:
2. "IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE
PROPOSED IMPROVED BENEFITS TO THIS REGION OF THE NEW
CARIBBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY EXPANSION ACT, THE
SO-CALLED 'CBI TWO', WILL NOT BECOME A REALITY BEFORE
1989.
3. "WHEN SUCH BENEFITS MATERIALISE, OUR GOVERNMENTS,
NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND CARIBBEAN PEOPLE IN
GENERAL WOULD OWE A MEASURE OF GRATITUDE TO THE
COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF THE DEDICATED STAFF OF THE
WASHINGTON-BASED DEVELOPMENT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE
POLICIES (DEVELOPMENT GAP) AND A GROUP OF U.S.
CONGRESSMEN TO OBTAIN A BETTER DEAL UNDER THE CBI FOR
THIS REGION.
3. "WITHIN RECENT MONTHS, THE PEOPLE AT THE
DEVELOPMENT GAP, AMONG THEM THE DOMINICA-BORN
ECONOMIST, ATHERTON MARTIN, HAVE BEEN VERY
INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ORGANISATION OF TWO CONGRESSIONAL
STUDY AND CONSULTATION MISSIONS SPONSORED BY
COMMITTEES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH
THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING US-CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC
RELATIONS.
4. "BOTH OF THOSE STUDY MISSIONS TOOK PLACE IN
BARBADOS AND INVOLVED PARTICIPANTS FROM CARICOM
GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE WELCOMED THE BILL
INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS LAST AUGUST BY DEMOCRATIC
REPRESENTATIVE SAM GIBBONS TO SIGNIFICANTLY AMEND THE
PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING CBI.
5. "CONGRESSMEN LIKE DANTE FASCELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE

HFAC
Rep FASCELL
Rep Crockett
Rep Gibbons

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND GEORGE CROCKETT JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERES COMMITTEE, HAVE, ALONG WITH THEIR OTHER CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUES HAVE DEEPLY IMPRESSED REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE TWO STUDY MISSIONS, ABOUT THEIR COMMITMENT TO STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL FOR THE CARIBBEAN UNDER 'CBI TWO'.

6. "FOLLOWING THE FIRST STUDY MISSION, THE DEVELOPMENT GAP OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSMAN CROCKETT PRESENTED PETITIONS TO THE U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE IN WHICH THEY REFLECT SOME OF THE DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND LABOUR MOVEMENT OF THIS REGION IN THE LACK OF BENEFITS UNDER THE CURRENT PROVISIONS OF THE CBI.

7. "THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE LEARNT, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE BILATERAL ORIENTATION OF THE CBI, AS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, AND THE PERCEIVED U.S. LEVERAGE OVER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION BY WASHINGTON THAT COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A MULTILATERAL APPROACH, IN A SPIRIT OF HARMONY, TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

8. "ALREADY KNOWN WERE THE VERY LIMITED TRADE AND INVESTMENT BENEFITS, AND THE LACK OF BROAD CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN IN THE FORMULATION OF THE FIRST CBI. THE DEVELOPMENT GAP, IN REINFORCING THE VIEWS OF SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN SEEKING AMENDMENTS TO THE CBI LEGISLATION, WAS TO POINT OUT THAT AS ORIGINALLY FRAMED, THE CBI FURTHER NARROWED THE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFINITION AND PROMOTION OF APPROPRIATE, 'TRULY INDIGENOUS' DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE REGION.

9. "BEFORE BECOMING ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN GENERATING INTEREST IN CONGRESSMAN GIBBON'S BILL FOR 'CBI TWO' THE DEVELOPMENT GAP HAD ORGANISED A CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA BACK IN DECEMBER 1982 TO ASSIST CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN ORGANISATIONS IN MOUNTING A
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SYSTEMATIC RESPONSE TO WIDEN THE BENEFITS UNDER THE CBI.

10. "THE NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE ORGANISATION HAS MAINTAINED THIS ACTIVE INTEREST IN WINNING PROPOSALS FOR AN IMPROVED TRADE AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE CARIBBEAN FROM THE USA.

11. "IT REMAINS A SOURCE OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SUGAR-PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF CARICOM ARE NOT LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM LIBERALISED SUGAR IMPORT QUOTAS FOR THE U.S. MARKET. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RECENT PLEDGE TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CARIBBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT, AS OUTLINED IN THE GIBBONS BILL, WOULD HAVE MADE BETTER READING HAD IT INCLUDED AN ASSURANCE TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO AT

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LEAST IMPROVE AND STABILISE CARIBBEAN SUGAR QUOTAS
FOR THE U.S.

12. "THE FINAL SHAPE OF 'CBI TWO' IS NOW ANXIOUSLY
BEING AWAITED IN THIS REGION." END TEXT. CHIANCONE
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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